[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) to (*d*) The member is referred to the answer furnished to interpellation No. 30.

Evasion of Payment of Customs Duty.

33. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) (i) Are the Government aware of the fact that large consignments of cocoanut, coir, fibre and other dutiable articles have been, of late, allowed to pass through the Quilon Land Entrance chowkey without payment of duty?

(ii) Has the Excise Commissioner reported to the Government on the subject? If not, will they be pleased to call for the records and place them on the table?

(*b*) Are they aware of the fact that more than one firm at Alleppey have of late been exporting dutiable articles, *viz.*, the produce of cocoanut trees, without payment of duty?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) No dutiable articles are reported to have been allowed to pass the Quilon Land Entrance chowkey without payment of duty.

(ii) In view of the answer to part (*a*) this question does not arise.

(*b*) One Alleppey firm has been reported to have exported cocoanut oil without payment of full duty.

Smuggling through the Quilon Land Entrance Chowkey.

34. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): Have the Government had occasion to know that, although cocoanut oil valued at a considerable amount was smuggled through the Land Entrance chowkey, Quilon, in 1098, and the same was detected, the authorities concerned have not taken any legal action in the matter? If not, will the Government be pleased to call for the records and examine them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 33.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): These are not identical questions. Mr. M. N. Pillai's question is about the consignment of cocoannt, coir, etc. My question is about cocoanut oil alone.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A portion of the question of Mr. M. N. Pillai relates to cocoanut oil. *Vide* part (*b*).

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): That is only about the Alleppey firm.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, only about it.

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MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*) : Is there any other instance with reference to the Quilon Land Entrance chowkey ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : Beyond what is stated in the answer to that question, no instance has come to the notice of the Government.

Scheme for Gradual Prohibition of Drink.

35. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Excise Commissioner has submitted to the Government a scheme to achieve gradual prohibition ?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to place the scheme on the table for public information ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The scheme is under the consideration of the Government and it is too soon to decide on the question of its publication.

Departmental Reports for 1098 M. E.

36. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Will the Government be pleased to place on the table, when ready, the annual reports for 1098 on the working of the several departments ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The question of printing and publishing departmental annual reports is under the consideration of the Government.

Trivandrum-Nagercoil Railway Line.

37. MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the preliminary survey of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil Railway line and to consider the desirability of commencing the construction of the line before undertaking the survey of the Kottarakara-Ernakulam line or at least simultaneously with it ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is possible to extend the railway to Chalai or its neighbourhood in the immediate future ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) In connection with the survey of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil line, the traverse line has been set out for 17½ miles, and beyond that, the ground has been investigated by taking trial levels up to a point opposite to the 26th mile of the M. S. Road. With regard to the construction of the line, it is not possible to give a definite reply at present.

(*b*) No definite reply can be given at present.

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